

a family step relation table coupled to the step table, the family step relation table identifying the relation between a family of computer systems and a set of software installation steps appropriate for the corresponding component.

46. The database of claim 45, wherein the family relation table includes a family identification attribute identifying a particular family of computer systems.

47. The database of claim 45, wherein the family step relation table includes a step identification attribute identifying a particular set of steps appropriate for a particular family.

48. The database of claim 45, wherein the family relation table includes a sequence number corresponding to each family, the sequence number representing a predetermined order in which steps associated with a family are to be expected.

49. The database of claim 45, wherein the family component relation table defines the relationship between an attribute identifying a computer family and an attribute identifying a component.

50. The database of claim 45, wherein the family component relation table defines the relationship between a component identification attribute and a step identification attribute.

51. The database of claim 45, further comprising:

a family table coupled to the step table, the family table identifying the family of computer systems with a name.

52. A system database including a database for use in the manufacturing of a build-to-order computer system comprising:

a step table containing a set of software installation and testing steps shared among different components of substantially all computer systems being manufactured by the system apparatus, wherein a prescribed software installation or testing step is executed by the system apparatus during the manufacturing of the build-to-order computer system to facilitate a corresponding software installation or testing for the build-to-order computer system, the step table including an aftercode attribute identifying whether a halt or reboot is required after a corresponding step is executed; and

a component table coupled to the step table, the component table containing a set of substantially all possible components that are included within the computer systems being manufactured, wherein the prescribed software installation or testing step executed by the system apparatus is determined in accordance with a corresponding component included in the build-to-order computer system.

53. A system apparatus including a database for use in the manufacturing of a build-to-order computer system comprising:

a step table containing a set of software installation and testing steps shared among different components of substantially all computer systems being manufactured by the system apparatus, wherein a prescribed software installation or testing step is executed by the system apparatus during the manufacturing of the build-to-order computer system to facilitate a corresponding software installation or testing for the build-to-order computer system, the step table including a maximum instance attribute indicting a maximum number of times that a corresponding step runs; and

a component table coupled to the step table, the component table containing a set of substantially all possible components that are included within the computer systems being manufactured, wherein the prescribed software installation or testing step executed by the system apparatus is determined in accordance with a corresponding component included in the build-to-order computer system.

54. A system apparatus including a database for use in the manufacturing of a build-to-order computer system comprising:

a step table containing a set of software installation and testing steps shared among different components of substantially all computer systems being manufactured by the system apparatus, wherein a prescribed software installation or testing step is executed by the system apparatus during the manufacturing of the build-to-order computer system to facilitate a corresponding software installation or testing for the build-to-order computer system, the step table including a phase attribute designating in which phase of manufacture a step is to be extended; and

a component table coupled to the step table containing a set of substantially all possible components that are included within computer systems being manufactured, wherein the prescribed software installation or testing step executed by the system apparatus is determined in accordance with a corresponding component included in the build-to-order computer system.

55. A system apparatus including a database for use in the manufacturing of a build-to-order computer system comprising:

a step table containing a set of software installation and testing steps shared among different components of substantially all computer systems being manufactured by the system apparatus, wherein a prescribed software installation or testing step is executed by the system apparatus during the manufacturing of the build-to-order computer system to facilitate a corresponding software installation or testing for the build-to-order computer system;

a component table coupled to the step table, the component table containing a set of substantially all possible components that are included within computer systems being manufactured, wherein the prescribed software installation or testing step executed by the system apparatus is determined in accordance with a corresponding component included in the build-to-order computer system;

a family relation table coupled to the step table, the family relation table identifying the relationship between a set of software installation steps and each family of computer systems being manufactured;

a family component relation table coupled to the component table, the family component relation table identifying the relationship between a family of computer systems and a set of components; and

a component step relation table coupled to the step table and the component table, the component step relation table identifying the relationship between a set of software installation and testing steps and a set of components.